

Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, July 18, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Mexico City, July 18, 1832.

. . . . I enclose to the Department of State a minute of two conversations held with Mr. Alaman on the subject of Texas, for although that Gentleman has apparently withdrawn from the Cabinet he still directs the Department of Foreign Affairs *sub rosa*, and is in fact as much the Minister as at any period heretofore. I find him much better disposed on the question, than my most sanguine hopes allowed me [to] anticipate, for although I never doubted being able to put him right eventually, I expected and feared some opposition to the project in the outset. I must so contrive as to have him the sole Negotiator on the part of Mexico, as I have already intimated to him, in which event I have strong faith of settling the Treaty in 10 days: it is possible that my confident and sanguine temper misleads me, yet I feel satisfied of holding a clue that will lead the Secretary precisely by that path I wish him to follow. The amount to which I am limited for the purchase by my instructions, will very probably be in part applied to *facilitate the Negotiation* , in which case we shall provide for that portion of the payment by a secret article, of all which at its proper time and in its proper place.

At the conclusion of the Treaty it may become indispensable for me to be myself the bearer to the U. States, and for this purpose I beg of you to order immediately one of the Sloops of War on the West India Station to come to Vera Cruz, report to me and wait my instructions. The visit of the Vessel to Vera Cruz will create no additional expence to the Navy Department, because being already on Service on that Station it does no more than

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increase the length of her cruize, and will besides have a good effect upon the authorities of this distracted Country, shewing a Vessel of War occasionally for the protection of our Citizens and their property, even should I have no employment for her in conveying me and the Treaty to the United States, but of her employment in the latter Service I am very sanguine.

You will be pleased also to send me the necessary order for being myself the bearer of the Treaty to the U. S. because as I have already remarked it may become indispensably necessary for the purpose of making explanations in regard to the contemplated secret Article, and other matters connected with the Negotiation that cannot be communicated satisfactorily in writing: my absence from Mexico will be of short duration and can operate no mischief to the public service, as the Consul may perform all the formal duties such as procuring Letters of protection etc. during that absence. . . .